

## A SURVEY OF PERSPECTIVES ON SAFETY, HEALTH, AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AMONG EMPLOYEES: A CASE STUDY AT BENTONG COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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### Abstract

*Every organisation must prioritise safety, health and emergency preparedness. Negligence and a lack of emergency awareness are the leading causes of accidents. This study examines how Bentong Community College employees perceive safety, health, and emergency preparedness. This study was conducted at one community college in Bentong district, located on the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia. A standardised questionnaire that was given to 43 employees of Bentong Community College who responded to an online survey served as the study's instrument. Descriptive statistics are used to analyse the data. Results revealed that most Bentong Community College employees believed safety, health, and emergency preparedness were crucial. Additionally, the outcome demonstrated that employees know the significance of safety, health, and emergency preparation. Bentong Community College could be an excellent example of prioritising safety, health, and emergency preparedness for other Community Colleges in different states of Malaysia.*

**Keywords:** *Community College, Safety, Health, Emergency Preparedness.*

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### INTRODUCTION

According to Ancita et al. (2013) and Kadir et al. (2021), understanding occupational safety and health is essential for preventing occupational illnesses and injuries. To ensure workplace safety and reduce the likelihood of workplace accidents, employers and employees must be informed of safety practices (Kadir & Norfadillah 2020; Siti Nakiah et al. 2015). In order to ensure that safety standards are followed and to reduce the frequency of workplace accidents, organisations must prioritise safety awareness (Mardziah 2002; Mohammad Lui & Kadir 2020).

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Similar conclusions were reached by Mohd Hakimi et al. (2014), who found that high employee accident rates are significantly influenced by low levels of safety education.

They also agree that every employee should be encouraged to be safety conscious in order to avoid accidents at work. Employees who are eager to address concerns about health and safety and adhere to safe work. Their actions demonstrate that they are conscious of the health hazards and safety that are prevalent in both workplaces, according to Safe Work Australia 2018. Therefore, in order to maintain safety and health at work, employers and employees alike should pay attention to workplace safety and health awareness (Amirul et al. 2019; Kadir et al. 2017; Mohd Azhar et al. 2019).

This study's objective is to identify a supportive work environment that will safeguard employees' health and safety. The staff at Bentong Community College largely engages in management, administration, and teaching and learning activities. These tasks are performed by staff employees with a range of academic backgrounds, service organisations, positions, years of service, and areas of responsibility. Determining the level of safety and occupational health awareness among departmental employees must be done through study.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Since people are unaware of the risks associated with particular professional jobs, Loney et al. (2012) contend that disregarding health and safety regulations may also lead to an increase in occupational accidents. According to Wang et al. (2020), Karanikas et al. (2018), and Choi et al. (2017), safe behaviour is influenced by safety awareness. Additionally, Wang et al. (2020) found that safety awareness influences safe behaviour.

Providing the labour resources for the project with safety and health training, according to Hallowel (2010), is one of the most crucial measures in lowering the risks associated with a particular activity. According to Barbaranelli et al. (2015), organizational improvements in safety-related outcomes are brought about by mentorship and succession planning, new employee orientation, systematic design and implementation of comprehensive occupational health and safety programmes for recruits, and systemic improvements in occupational health and safety systems. It refers to employees' confidence in their ability to do a task safely.

According to Gillespie and Colignon (1993), creating emergency preparation entails planning, training, exercise, and purchasing tools and equipment to enable emergency action. Being ready means putting a plan in place for dealing with environmental problems. It comes about as a result of a process in which a community evaluates its susceptibility to all environmental risks (vulnerability analysis), ascertains the material and human resources available to counter these threats (capability assessment), and establishes the organisational structures by which a coordinated response is to be made (capability assessment) (plan development). Planning and training must be ongoing efforts to build and sustain disaster readiness as vulnerability, resources, and organisational structures change over time, and performance capabilities deteriorate when not in use (Daines, 1991; Buckle et al., 2000).

## METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted in 2022 from June to December. After establishing the study topic, a research question and research objective are given. Examine previous findings and extract the relevant literature's supporting arguments. A conceptual framework and descriptive analysis were employed in this investigation. 43 workers from various backgrounds have consented to serve as respondents in this study. We use a convenience sample strategy to choose respondents based on their time available to complete our questionnaire survey because of their hectic daily work schedules. The earlier study's questionnaire was used as a component of the research strategy, and quantitative research procedures were applied. The data were all examined by the authors using SPSS version 29.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Additionally, educational institutions must regularly carry out safety risk assessments to ensure a safe working environment since they impact how students see the institution as a whole. It is important to remember that even the slightest harm to someone's life should not be taken lightly, primarily if someone else's negligence caused it, since it will affect the current and future generations. Senior management, in particular, must cooperate with other stakeholders to agree to create a secure workplace. The employer-selected occupational safety and health committee must meticulously monitor and assess workplace safety concerns to raise the bar for educational institutions concerning occupational safety and health. By gender, there were 17 men (39.5%) and 26 women (60.5%) among the administrative employees that participated.

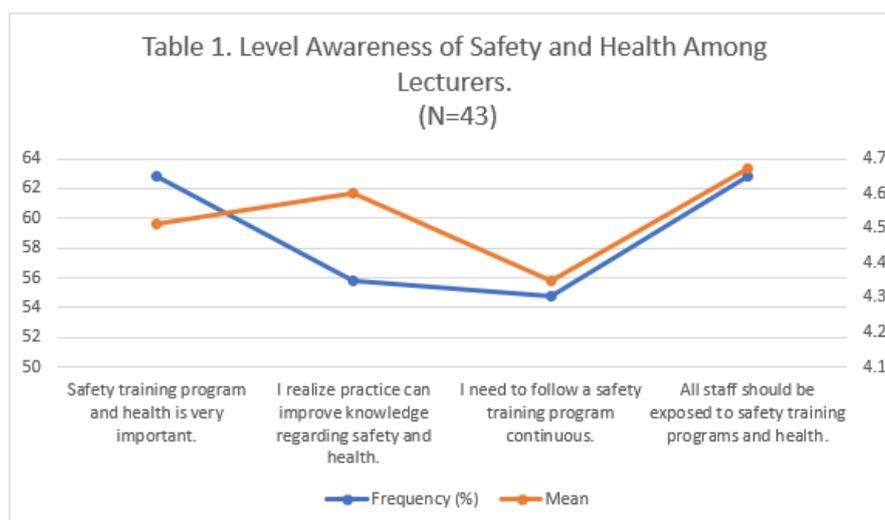


Figure 1 Level Awareness of Safety and Health Among Lecturers

According to Table 1, Level Awareness of Safety And Health Among Lecturers has the most outstanding mean value, 4.67. Most respondents agreed that the highest mean for the level

of safety and health awareness among lecturers shows that it is the most crucial factor for safety risk assessment.

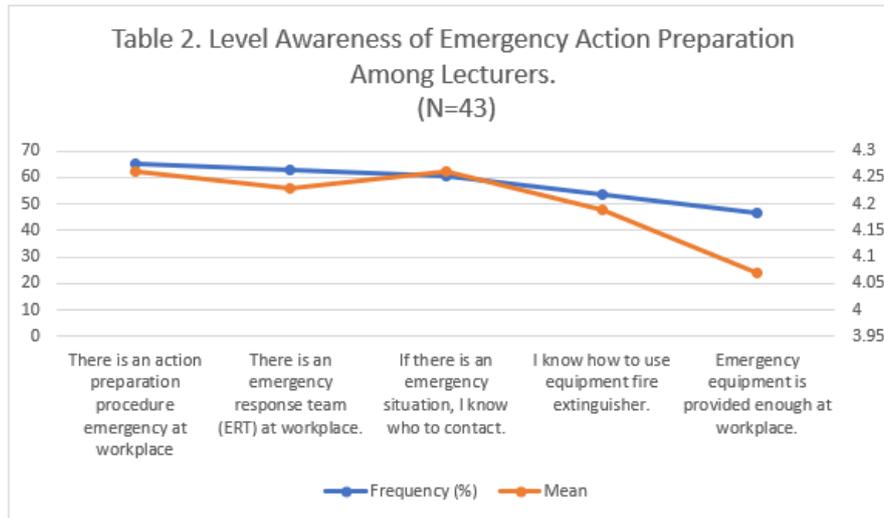


Figure 2 Level Awareness of Emergency Action Preparation Among Lecturers

The frequency distribution and percentage of respondents' judgments of their preparation for disasters are shown in Table 2. With an overall mean score of 4.19, the data demonstrates that respondents are highly aware of emergency action plans in the event of a current emergency at work. This is shown by the fact that 40 respondents (93%) ( $M=4.26$ ) and 39 respondents (90.7%), respectively are aware of the emergency action planning processes and the emergency at work of the action team ( $M=4.23$ ).

This research is not only focused on the level of awareness. The correlation between each factor can also be studied to see how far the objectives of this study can be achieved. The study also does not limit to staff only. Cleaning contractors and security guards may also be involved. This is because they are also part of the employees who work in the same institution.

## CONCLUSION

This study shows that Bentong Community College employees have an extensive understanding of occupational safety and health topics. According to the study, organising safety activities, investigating complaints and accidents, and exhibiting a commitment to safety is not as significant as occupational safety and health training. Training is crucial in determining the degree of awareness among employees at Bentong Community College and the program's performance. This study is therefore expected to promote public awareness of occupational safety and health, particularly at all levels of job specialisation, enabling all organisations to achieve management awareness.

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